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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ABRAM

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1969

ABRAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
1969

CHAIRMAN ..... Councillor D. Hayes.
VICE CHAIRMAN ..... Councillor Ellis Wood, O.B.E.,J.P.,C.A.

MEMBERS

Joseph Ashurst	John Mannion
Daniel Beardsmore	Frank Phillips, C.C., B.E.M.,
Harold E. Brown	George H. Simm
Ronald Carver	William Whittle
Ernest P. Houghton	William Wright, J.P.

During 1969, the Health Committee, under the chairmanship of Councillor J. Ashurst was composed of all members of the Council.

OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
(Divisional Medical Officer, No.8 Health Division, Lancashire County Council).

J.H.M. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Divisional Health Office,
3, King Street, Wigan, Lancs.
Tel: WIGAN 44208.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:
(Joint use with Hindley U.D.C.)

J.T. HAMPSON, Cert. R.S.H. and S.I.E.J.B., Meat and Smoke Certs. R.S.H.

G.A. PILKINGTON, Cert. R.S.H. and P.H.I.E.B., Meat and Other Foods Diploma R.S.H.

T. SPEAKMAN, Cert. P.H.I.E.B., Meat and Other Foods Diploma R.S.H.

R.A.P. THOMPSON, Diploma P.H.I.E.B.

ABRAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the
Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1969.

As in previous years it has been compiled in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health.

I would like this opportunity to express my gratitude for the continuing assistance and co-operation received from the Officers of the Council and particularly to Mr. Pilkington, Public Health Inspector, for his unfailing support.

I also respectfully wish to offer to Members of the Council my appreciation for the courtesy and encouragement given to me at all times,

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
J.H.M. ROBERTSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 1,984 acres.

Population (Census, 1961): 6,180.
Estimated Mid-1969 (Registrar-General): 6,290

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1969 according to Rate Book: 2,108. Rateable Value: £122,318.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £470.

The district is mainly residential, the majority of the houses being terraced and following the routes of the main roads through the district.

The chief industries in the area are coal mining, food canning and light engineering, in addition, agriculture and dairy farming are carried on in the district.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births:			
Legitimate	63	54	117
Illegitimate	3	2	5
Total	66	56	122
Still Births:			
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	1	3
Deaths of Infants under 1 yr. of age:			
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	1	3
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:			
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1	1	2
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age:			
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1	1	2
Total Deaths from all causes and at all ages	38	33	71

Vital Statistics, 1969

Mortality rates per 1,000 est. population -

Total (all forms) -	
Crude rate	11.3
Adjusted rate	15.4
Respiratory T.B.	-
Malignant neoplasms, etc.	2.7

Live Birth rates per 1,000 est. population -

Crude rate	19.4
Adjusted rate	19.4

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births 24.0

	Male	Female	Total
Total live and stillbirths	68	57	125

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	Nil
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	25.0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	16.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	16.0
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	40.0

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS COMPARATIVE STATISTICS
IN RESPECT OF THE YEARS 1964-69.

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality Total		Infant Mortality Neo-Natal	
	No. Regis-tered.	Rate per 1000 Popn.	No. Regis-tered.	Rate per 1000 Popn.	No. Regis-tered.	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of deaths regis-tered.	Rate per 1000 total births.	No. of deaths regis-tered.	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of deaths regis-tered.	Rate per 1000 live births
Year 1969	122	*19.4	71	*15.4	3	24.0	Nil	Nil	3	25.0	2	16.0
Year 1968	105	16.9	75	16.9	1	9.0	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Year 1967	101	16.3	78	17.5	3	29.0	Nil	Nil	2	19.8	Nil	Nil
Year 1966	100	16.4	57	12.9	1	9.9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Year 1965	104	17.0	73	16.4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	57.7	2	19.2
Year 1964	116	18.9	66	14.9	2	16.9	Nil	Nil	1	8.6	1	8.6
Avge. 5 years 1964-1968	-	17.1	-	15.7	-	12.9	-	Nil	-	17.2	-	5.5

*Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor, 1,00)
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor, 1.36)

In the next table are shown the causes of death and the number of deaths from each cause in 1969 as compared with 1968.

TABLE B.

Causes of Death	1968 M.	1968 F.	1968 Ttl.	1969 M.	1969 F.	1969 Ttl.
Malignant neoplasms - intestine	3	--	3	3	1	4
- lung, bronchus	3	-	3	2	-	2
- breast	-	1	1	-	4	4
- uterus	-	1	1	-	-	-
- others	3	1	4	4	3	7
Other endocrine,etc. diseases	1	-	1	1	-	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	-	-	1	2	3
Anaemias	-	-	-	-	2	2
Hypertensive disease	1	1	2	2	1	3
Ischaemic heart disease	10	9	19	8	3	11
Other forms of heart disease	1	2	3	3	4	7
Cerebro-vascular disease.....	8	3	11	1	7	8
Other diseases of circulatory system	-	-	-	-	2	2
Influenza	1	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	4	7	3	-	3
Bronchitis and emphysema	3	4	7	4	2	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	-	5	1	-	1
Peptic ulcer	-	-	-	1	1	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality	-	-	-	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1	-	-	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system ...	1	-	1	-	-	-
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	2	2	-	-	-
Motor vehicle accidents.....	-	-	-	1	-	1
All other accidents	2	-	2	1	-	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	-	-	1	-	1
All other causes	-	1	1	-	-	-
Total	46	29	75	38	33	71

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations have been carried out at the Public Health Laboratories at Fulwood, Preston, and at Wigan Infirmary. The arrangements are convenient and satisfactory.

The following specimens were submitted for examination by the Public Health Department:-

6 Samples of water
26 " of milk
49 Faecal specimens

Chemical examinations are carried out by the City Analyst's Department, Liverpool Corporation. Two samples of water were submitted during the year for analysis.

Ambulance arrangements.

The Lancashire County Council ambulance service removes all infectious, non-infectious, accident and maternity cases to hospitals, clinics, etc.

Ambulances stationed at Hindley and Ashton-in-Makerfield serve Abram, Bickershaw and Bamfurlong Wards, whilst ambulances stationed in Leigh usually deal with cases in the Plank Lane Ward; the service is quite adequate and operates with speed and efficiency.

Hospitals.

There is no hospital within the district and facilities for treatment are, in most cases, provided at Whelley Isolation Hospital and Astley Sanatorium for infectious diseases, and at Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries and Billinge Hospital for general medical treatment.

Maternity cases are provided for at the Billinge Hospital where a modern and well equipped maternity block is maintained, special facilities for the treatment of nervous disorders are also available at this hospital.

Patients suffering from tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases are catered for at the Chest Clinic in Wigan and at special hospitals situated in various parts of the County.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is maintained by the County Council, the Divisional Health Committee and the Divisional Medical Officer being responsible for its administration.

On 15th May, 1967 the Clinic was transferred to Platt House, Platt Bridge, where an Ante-Natal Clinic and Child Welfare Clinic are now held.

Ante-Natal Clinics are held on Friday 1.p.m. to 4.p.m. Expectant mothers are invited to the Clinic staffed by Midwives where advice can be given or referred for treatment. The development of a Maternity Unit at Billinge Hospital has resulted in some withdrawal of Consultant Staff from Local Health Authority Clinics. This redeployment of personnel is felt by the Hospital Staff to locate the Specialist where their skill and experience can be of greatest value. This change of policy is reflected in the fall of attendances at the clinic as some mothers now have to attend Billinge Hospital Ante-Natal Clinic for Consultant advice.

Child Welfare Clinics are held each Wednesday 1.30.p.m. to 4.p.m. each session is attended by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officer.

Mothers of infants or children under school age are advised on such matters as feeding, general care of child, the desirability of obtaining medical treatment and, in this last respect, it is emphasized that responsibility for giving such treatment rests with the General Practitioner.

Diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus immunisations and vaccination against smallpox and poliomyelitis are performed at the Clinic. Many parents take advantage of this service to protect their children but every effort should be made to maintain a high level of protection in the community.

NOTE: The Health Visitor is in attendance at the Clinic each morning from 9.a.m. to 10.a.m. to give advice. Phone No.Wigan 66380.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water supply.

The Statutory Water Undertaker is the Makerfield Water Board which is responsible for providing the district with a sufficient and wholesome supply of water.

The district is supplied with water from two sources. The whole of the Bickershaw Ward and the part of the Abram Brow Ward to the north of the Parish Church is supplied with upland surface water from the Rivington Aqueduct. The remaining part of the Abram Brow Ward, Bamfurlong and Plank Lane Wards are supplied with deep well water from the Board's wells at Golborne. The supply is constant, maintained at high pressure and chlorinated. The flouride content of the water supply is 0.13 mg/litre.

Four samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination; all of the results indicated a safe and wholesome supply.

All dwellings within the district have a water supply piped to a tap inside the house.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Throughout the district separate systems of drainage are provided for foul sewage and surface water.

The sewage is treated at the Council's sewage works, in screening and settling tanks, and triple contact beds; the effluent obtained is discharged into Aye Brook.

The new sewer system is now fully operational but is at the present time still discharging into the old sewage works. They will eventually discharge into the new sewage works of Hindley U.D.C. at Platt Bridge which is at present under construction.

New drainage installations and alterations to existing drains are examined and tested as required.

Rivers and Streams.

It has not been necessary to take any action in respect of the pollution of rivers and streams.

Sanitary accommodation at the end of 1969.

Number of privy middens	4
" of closets attached to privy middens	4
" of pail closets	8
" of fresh water closets	2222
" of moveable ashbins for refuse	2188
" of houses on water carriage system	2108

Fresh water closets are provided for all new property erected within the district.

Public Cleansing.

Street scavenging and the removal of house refuse is carried out entirely by the Local Authority.

Ashbins are provided by the Local Authority, out of rate fund, and these are emptied weekly. Pails are emptied weekly and privies at intervals of two to three weeks; in each instance the structures are afterwards dusted internally with gammexane insecticide powder after emptying.

A driver and four to five loaders operating a Shelvoke and Drewry refuse vehicle are employed approximately four and a half days each week on the collection of refuse from shops and houses. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping and in order to reduce to a minimum any nuisance arising from this work, paper, rags, woollens, etc., are removed from the refuse during collection and at the tip face.

All workmen employed on refuse collection and recovery of salvage receive an incentive bonus.

Materials Salvaged and Sold during the year.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrts.	Lbs.
Waste paper.....	51	5	1	-
Rags	1	6	3	20
Woollens.....	-	2	1	11
Aluminium	-	1	1	27

Sanitary inspections of the area.

Number of premises visited	802
" of visits	1993
" of nuisances discovered	262
" of nuisances abated	241
" of informal notices served	59
" of statutory notices served	7
" of legal proceedings	Nil

Summary of Visits and Inspections during 1969

Accumulation of Rubbish	11
Bakehouses	2
Caravans	8
Closet conversions	2
Dairies and Milkshops	20
Dirty and Verminous houses and Problem families	10
Ditches and Watercourses	1
Dwelling houses under Public Health Acts. Inspections	418
" " " " " " Revisits	266
" " " Housing Acts. Inspections	28
" " " " " Visits	47
Drainage	46
Factories	8
Farms	8
Food Hygiene Regulations	88
Food preparing premises	7
Food inspection	37
Fried fish shops	6
Ice cream premises	3
Infectious diseases inc. Food Poisoning and Dysentery	61
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Contractors etc	177
Licensed premises	4
Litter	5
Milk samples	17
Miscellaneous	94
Offices	19
Outworkers	-
Overcrowding	4
Petroleum Regulations	9
Piggeries	-
Refuse Collection	60
Refuse Disposal	131
Rent Act. Inspections	1
Rent Act. Visits	2
Rodent Control	55
Salvage	40
Schools	6
Shops Act Inspections	100
Spoilbanks	4
Street Vendors and Hawkers	2
Smoke Observations	-
Water Samples	6
Water Supply	4

Summary of Defects dealt with during 1969.

Defect	Found	*Remedied
HOUSING		
Roofs leaking	16	14
Chimney stacks not weathertight or defective	11	9
Walls: defective brickwork	14	14
" rising damp	10	9
" damp penetrating	34	30
Stone cills defective	-	-
Doors dilapidated or not weathertight	12	12
Window frames dilapidated or not weathertight	34	32
Sashcords broken	1	1
Defective solid floors	1	1
" wood floors	2	2
" skirtings	1	1
Wallplaster perished	22	20
Ceiling plaster perished or sagging	2	2
Staircases defective	-	1
Firegrates defective	-	-
Chimney flues defective or causing emission of smoke in rooms	-	-
Water supply insufficient or defective	15	15
Miscellaneous	12	12
DRAINAGE		
Insanitary sinks	-	-
Sink waste pipe defective	1	1
Eavesgutters defective	27	26
Rainwater pipes defective	6	6
Drains defective	13	13
Drains blocked	47	47
SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.		
Water closet structure defective	2	2
" " pan defective	11	11
" " cistern defective	2	2
" " seat broken	-	-
Absence of water supply to W.C.	6	6

*Owing to some defects found in the preceding year not being remedied until this year, more defects are shown as remedied than found in some instances.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

During the year all premises which have been registered under the Act were visited on at least two occasions. At the end of the year there were eleven premises registered, mainly retail shops where persons are employed.

Shops Act, 1950.

All shops in the district are inspected twice annually on behalf of the Lancashire County Council which is the Shops Act authority, and the Urban District Council which is the Sanitary authority for the purposes of the Act.

100 inspections were made during the year.

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites within the district and on those occasions when van dwellers of the gipsy type have made unauthorised use of land they have been quickly removed in view of their unclean habits. 8 visits were made during the year.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

Contact is maintained between the Public Health Inspector and the Works Managers with regard to smoke abatement and the provisions of the Act are under discussion during the current year.

There are two factory chimneys in the district and during the year neither were seen to be causing offence; the furnaces are fed by chain grate mechanical stokers and the plant is generally well maintained.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964.

This Act came into operation on the 1st April, 1965 and made it compulsory for scrap metal dealers to be registered with the local authority.

At the end of the year six dealers and four itinerant collectors were registered.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are none in the district.

Disinfestation of Verminous Premises.

Twelve premises found to be infected with vermin were sprayed with an insecticide containing 5 per cent D.D.T. and Pyrethrin; the initial treatments were followed up with a second spray and this method has proved to be sufficient.

Offensive Trades.

No offensive trades are carried on in the district.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are none in the district.

Factories.

Eleven visits were paid to factories under the Factories Act, 1961, and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	9	8	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .	1	1	-	-
TOTAL:	12	11	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
			Referred		
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable tempt.(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate vtltn. (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffctve. drng. of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary cnvcs. (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or def.	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not.sep.for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offcs. against Act (not inc. offcs.reltg. to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-

Canal Boats.

The only mooring wharf in the district is now used almost exclusively by the British Waterways engineers in connection with canal maintenance and no canal boats were inspected during the year.

Schools.

Water closet accommodation in all schools is of the fresh water type each with its own flushing cistern. Regular lime-washing of all conveniences is arranged for by the Education Authority.

During the year improvements have been made to the sanitary accommodation and cloakroom and washing facilities at schools in the district.

All schools in the area are supplied with water from the mains.

Rodent Control.

One trained part-time operator is employed on rodent control work approximately two days per week. The treatment of infestations found at dwelling houses is carried out free of charge but a charge is made for the treatment of business premises.

The annual 10 per cent test baiting of the sewerage system was carried out in the Spring and proved to be negative; the authority was then exempted from further sewer treatments during the year.

The sewage disposal works and refuse tips are treated systematically and infestations kept to a minimum.

The following table summarises the action relating to rodent control work during the year:-

	Type of property.	
	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
(a) No. of properties in district	2329	20
(b) Total number of properties (Including nearby premises) inspected following notfcn.	211	6
(c) No. of (b) infested by - rats	53	6
- mice	21	-
(d) Total No. of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	11	-
(e) No. of (d) infested by - rats	9	-
- mice	-	-

4. HOUSING.

Housing Repair.

The township consists chiefly of working class houses built in terraces about seventy to eighty years ago and prior to the operation of building byelaw control.

Many of these houses are of the open kitchen and scullery type having two fair sized bedrooms or one large bedroom and two single bedrooms.

Factors contributing to the rapid deterioration of a large proportion of the privately owned dwelling houses in the district are mining subsidence which is responsible for some damage to structures and neglect over many years which has resulted in an accumulation of disrepair.

Housing Applications.

Some one hundred and fifty-one applications for council houses remain to be dealt with and of these forty six are applicants not having a house of their own. The number of new applicants living in lodgings was seventeen. It is however felt that the worst cases of overcrowding have been dealt with.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

	Houses	Flats
Number of new houses erected during the year:-		
(i) By the local authority	Nil	Nil
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	33	Nil

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total No. of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 370

(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose 802

(2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:-

(a) No. found during year 41

(b) No. (or estimated No.) at end of year 56

(3) No. of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit ... 73

(4) Houses Demolished:- In or adjoining clearance areas:	Houses Demolished	Displaced during Year	
		Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitn.	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangements, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Houses on land acquired under Sect.43(2),Housing Act,1957...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not in or adjoining clearance Areas:			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17(1), Housing Act, 1957.....	7	6	2
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Nil	Nil	Nil
(6) Houses unfit for human habitn. where action has been taken under local Acts.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
(5) Unfit Houses Closed:-	Number		
(1) Under Sect. 16(4),17(1) and 35(1),Housing Act,1957.....	9	27	6
(2) Under Sect.17(3) and 26, Housing Act,1957.....	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Sect.18,Housing Act,1957.	Nil	Nil	Nil

5) Unfit Houses Made Fit and houses in which Defects were Remedied:-	By Owner	By Local Authority.
(1) After informal action by local authority	Nil	-
(2) After formal notice under:		
(a) Public Health Acts	Nil	Nil
(b) Sect. 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957 ..	Nil	Nil
(3) Under Sect. 24, Housing Act, 1957	1	-

7) Unfit houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):-	Number of houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
Position at end of year:		
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation.		
(a) Under Section 48	Nil	Nil
(b) Under Section 17 (2)	Nil	Nil
(c) Under Section 46	Nil	Nil
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	Nil	-

8) Purchase of Houses by Agreement:-	Number of Houses (1)	Number of occupants of houses in Col. (1) (2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year	Nil	Nil

9) Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 and Housing Act, 1969. Improvement grants, etc.

Authority has resolved not to make Improvement grants.

10) House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Acts, 1961, 1964 and 1969. Standard Grants. Action During Year:-	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected. owner/ occupier	Others.
(i) Applications submitted to local authority for improvement to full standard	14	12
(ii) Applications submitted to L.A. for improvement to reduced standard ..	Nil	Nil
(iii) Applications approved by local authority for improvement to:		
(a) full standard	14	6
(b) reduced standard	Nil	Nil
(iv) Work completed	14	2

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

An adequate supply of milk is produced within, or brought into, the district.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) (No.2) Order, 1958 came into operation on the 1st October, 1958. The order specifies Abram as an area within which milk sold by retail must be "specially designated" milk (i.e. "pasteurised", "sterilised" or "untreated" milk).

During 1969, 16 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological and tuberculosis-biological examination; the results were as follows:-

	RESULTS			
	No. of Samples	Satis.	Un-Satis.	No result.
(a) Raw Milk -				
(i) Tuberculosis -biological test.	11	11	-	-
(ii) Methylene Blue reduction test.	10	8	2	-
(iii) Brucellosis - Ring Test	11	10	-	1
(iv) Brucellosis - Culture Test ...	1	1	-	-
(b) "Heat treated" milk -				
"Pasteurised" -				
(i) Phosphatase test	4	4	-	-
(ii) Methylene Blue reduction test.	4	4	-	-
"Sterilised"				
(iii) Turbidity test	1	1	-	-

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959
The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963.

The Lancashire County Council, being the food and drugs authority for the district, are now responsible for the issuing of licenses under the above regulations. During 1967 they issued a new type of comprehensive licence to cover the sale of prepacked milks for a period of 3 to 5 years and issued 34 licenses for the sale of the following, viz:-

Untreated, Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk.

(b) Meat and Other foods.

Most of the meat retailed in the district has been purchased off the hook at licensed slaughterhouses in the Wigan and Liverpool areas.

There are no slaughterhouses, restaurants or hotels in the district.

Routine inspections are made of meat shops, etc. and the Food Hygiene Regulations are enforced.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

(c) Food Inspection.

During the year a small quantity of various foods were found to be unfit for human consumption; these were all voluntarily surrendered and disposed of by burying or incineration.

(d) Food premises.

The following tables show (i) the number of food premises by type and (ii) those food premises which must be registered under the Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1938.

(i) No. of Food Premises by type of business.

General grocers and provision dealers	18
Greengrocers and fruiteres (incl. those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	2
Fishmongers (incl. those selling poultry, game, etc.)...	Nil
Meat shops (Butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe etc)	2
Bakers and/or confectioners	2
Fried fish shops	6
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream etc.	Nil
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	12

(ii) No. of Food Premises by type of business registered under the Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1938.

Type of Business.	No. registered at 31.12.69	No. of inspections of registered premises during year.
Manufacture and sale of sausages and other meat products	2	4
Storage and sale of ice cream	19	16
Hawkers - fruit and vegetables storage premises	4	4

(e) Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1959 - 1963.

No ice cream is manufactured within the district. All ice cream sold in shops is manufactured by reputable firms and is pre-wrapped.

Routine inspection of retail shops was carried out.

(f) Food Sampling, Adulteration, etc.

The County Council is the authority responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 relating to food sampling and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for particulars of the undermentioned food samples taken in this district during the year, and submitted for analysis.

A total of 27 samples was obtained comprising 18 milks (of which 2 were Channel Island milk) and nine others as follows:-

1 lemonade
1 non-fattening sweeteners
1 sugar free sweeteners
1 toothache solution
1 mepryramine maleate cream
1 pineapple juice, canned.
1 whole orange drink
1 Epsom salts, B.P.
1 stewed steak with gravy, canned.

After submission for examination by the County Analyst all the above samples were reported to be genuine.

(g) Clean Food.

The Public Health Inspector has made frequent visits to food premises and there appears to have been a general improvement in the standard of hygiene observed by persons engaged in the industry. The practice of selling soil vegetables and such articles as firewood and firelighters alongside other foods has now virtually ceased.

(h) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

The work of implementing the Food Hygiene Regulations has proceeded satisfactorily during the year and discussion with shopkeepers regarding the effect of the regulations was carried out.

Much of the work carried out during the year was done voluntarily.

No formal action was taken.

(i) Licensed Premises.

During the year further representations have been made to the owners of licensed premises in respect of the provision of new sanitary accommodation including washing facilities.

The importance of glass sterilisation continues to be emphasised.

(j) Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

(k) Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

(l) Poultry Inspection.

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

6. CONTROL AND PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are removed to Whelley Hospital and Astley Sanatorium.

The number of cases of notifiable diseases fell from 58 in 1968 to 21 in 1969 solely due to cases of measles falling from 51 (1968) to 14 (1969).

Five cases of dysentery, one infective-jaundice and one respiratory tuberculosis were also notified during the year.

Supplies of Diphtheria Anti-toxin are kept at the Divisional Health Office and at the local Hospitals; this is always available to medical practitioners.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus and vaccination against smallpox and poliomyelitis is provided for any pre-school or school child and is performed by the general medical practitioner or by the Medical Officer at the Child Welfare Clinic.

The following statistics show the number of children under 16 years of age who were immunised and vaccinated during the year:-

	Primary	Reinforcement
Diphtheria	75	125
Whooping Cough	49	98
Tetanus	75	125
Poliomyelitis	127	106
Measles	25	-
Smallpox	36	-

No preliminary tests and no post Schick tests were undertaken.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumocci and for the provision of appropriate type serum.

The general standard of cleanliness in the district remains high; the few cases of head lice dealt with at the clinic were successfully treated with D.D.T. emulsion.

Disinfection.

Disinfection of premises and infected materials is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

Where cases of infectious disease have occurred, premises are dealt with on release from isolation, or removal to hospital, or in the event of death.

Formaldehyde solution is used for the disinfection of premises; articles which are infected or have been exposed to infections are similarly dealt with or disinfected by steam, or destroyed, according to the nature or value of the article.

Steam sterilisation facilities are available at Hindley U.D.C. depot by arrangement with the Council.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1969.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Total cases at all ages	Total Cases Notified									
		Age periods in years.									
		Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15-24	Over 25	Age Unknown
Measles	14	-	2	-	1	3	7	1	-	-	-
Dysentery	5	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
Infective jaundice	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Respiratory tuberculosis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTAL:	21	1	2	1	2	3	9	1	2	-	-

Tuberculosis

The treatment of Tuberculosis is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board and cases in Abram attended the Chest Clinic situated at Millgate, Wigan, as out-patients, or are admitted to an appropriate hospital for special treatment.

During 1969 one new case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified; no deaths were recorded.

Notification of the disease in the district is quite satisfactory and no action has been necessary under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of tuberculosis patients.

New Cases of Tuberculosis in Age Groups.

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.
1-	-	-	-	-
3-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	-	-
10-	-	-	-	-
15-	-	-	-	-
20-	-	1	-	-
25-	-	-	-	-
30-	-	-	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-
55-	-	-	-	-
65-	-	-	-	-
	-	1	-	-
Total:	1		-	

There is no evidence of any excessive incidence of, or mortality from tuberculosis, in any particular occupation in the district.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken under these regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

Cancer.

Seventeen deaths (nine males and eight females) were certified as due to cancer during the year, compared with twelve in 1968.

Facilities for radium treatment are available to Abram residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester and at Wigan Infirmary.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was taken during the year under Section 47 of this Act.